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1975/04/18

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FLASH
DE WTE #2229 1080334
Z 180359Z APR 75
FM THE WHITE HOUSE

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S/SECRET SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY VIA MARTIN CHANNELS

WH50718

APRIL 17, 1975

TO: AMBASSADOR MARTIN
FROM: SECRETARY KISSNGER

I HAVE DISCUSSED YOUR SAIGON 710 WITH THE PRESIDENT. THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO YOUR PROCEEDING AS YOU INDICATE IN PARAGRAPH 9.

YOU WILL SOON BE RECEIVING A FULL REPORT ON TODAY'S WSAG WIH FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ON A VARIETY OF QUESTIONS.

IN THE MEANTIME, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT IN THE UNANIMOUS VIEW OF THE AGENCIES REPRESENTED, THE SITUATION IN VIET-NAM IS RAPIDLY AND IRRETRIEVEABLY APPROACHING THE WORST CASE. IT IS CLEAR TO ME--AND THE WSAG CONFIRMED IT--THAT AS A RESULT, INTERAGENCY PRESSURE FOR IMMEDIATE EVACATION OF U.S. PERSONNEL HAS NOW BECOME IRRESTIBLE. WITHOUT EXCEPTION THE VIEW OF THOSE AT THE MEETNG IS THAT WE MUST EVACUATE OUR PEOPLE--AND DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THIS CONCLUSION, I DO NOT DOUBT, WILL SHORTLY LEAK. THE PRESIDENT, OF COURSE, WILL THEN BE BLAMED DIRECTLY FOR BEING INDIFFERENT TO THE SAVING OF AMERICAN LIVES. IN SHORT, WE ARE FACED WITH A VERY NASTY PROBLEM.

GIVEN THE POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF THIS PROBLEM AT HOME AND THE REALITIES OF THE BATTLEFIELD IN VIET-NAM, IT IS ALSO BEGINNING INCREASINGLY TO APPEAR THAT DRASTIC ACTION WILL BE REQUIRED IF WE ARE TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF PROVIDING FOR THOSE VIETNAMESE WHO HAVE RELIED ON US. I THEREFORE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR JUDGEMNT ON THE WISDOM AND FEASIBILITY OF OUR INITIATING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PRC IN ORDER TO WORK OUT SOME ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE DEPARTURE OF SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE WHO WOULD BE

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MCFARLANE,ROBMAN

RECALLED
PSN:219419 PAGE 01 TOR:108/03:34Z DTG:180359Z APR 75

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By let, NARA, Date 1/10/00

Declassified
Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford

ENDANGERED AND TO WHOM WE ARE MOST DEEPLY OBLIGED.
WITH RESPECT TO THE VOTE IN CONGRESS, I THINK WE WILL BE ABLE TO ENSURE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A NEGATIVE DECISION BEFORE MONDAY AT THE EARLIEST.
YOU ARE DOING A FANTASTIC JOB.
WARM REGARDS.
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